

CIAOSR MD TCS 3922/75

Military Developments (Staff Notes)

15 Aug 75

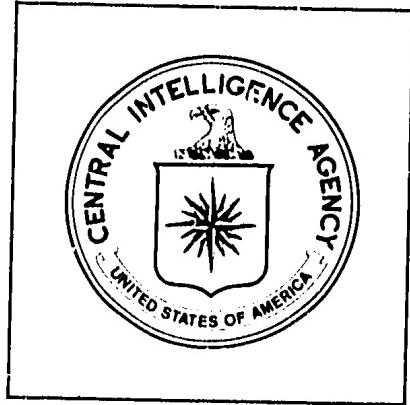
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STAFF NOTES:

Military Developments

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USSR: Continuing Debate on Strategic Doctrine

Familiar signs of debate over strategic policy have reappeared in the Soviet press. Two military articles stressing the continued validity of the formula taken from Clausewitz and Lenin that "war is a continuation of politics" have referred to "well known mistakes" on this subject made by unnamed Soviet authors.

Debates over the validity of this formula in the nuclear era and on the consequences of nuclear war have been traditional surrogates for behind-the-scene argument within the Soviet leadership over various aspects of defense policy. The military's position that nuclear war can result in meaningful political ends is designed to rationalize a more elaborate defense posture.

From mid-1973 until just prior to the Vladivostok Summit, political commentators associated with the USA and Canada Institute and military writers affiliated with the Main Political Directorate of the Armed Forces authored a series of disputatious articles on these themes. The timing of that debate implied a relationship to the decisions that were apparently made before Vladivostok.

The reappearance of these themes. [redacted]

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[redacted] in the July issue of Communist of the Armed Forces, may indicate that the issues on strategic force posture compromised in November are again becoming contentious. Whether the present motivation is SALT-related or is an outgrowth of strains developed during the budgetary cycle is unclear.

Staff Notes: Military Developments are prepared for the internal use of CIA and reflect the immediate views of analysts in the Office of Strategic Research. Observations and queries may be directed to the analyst named following each item.

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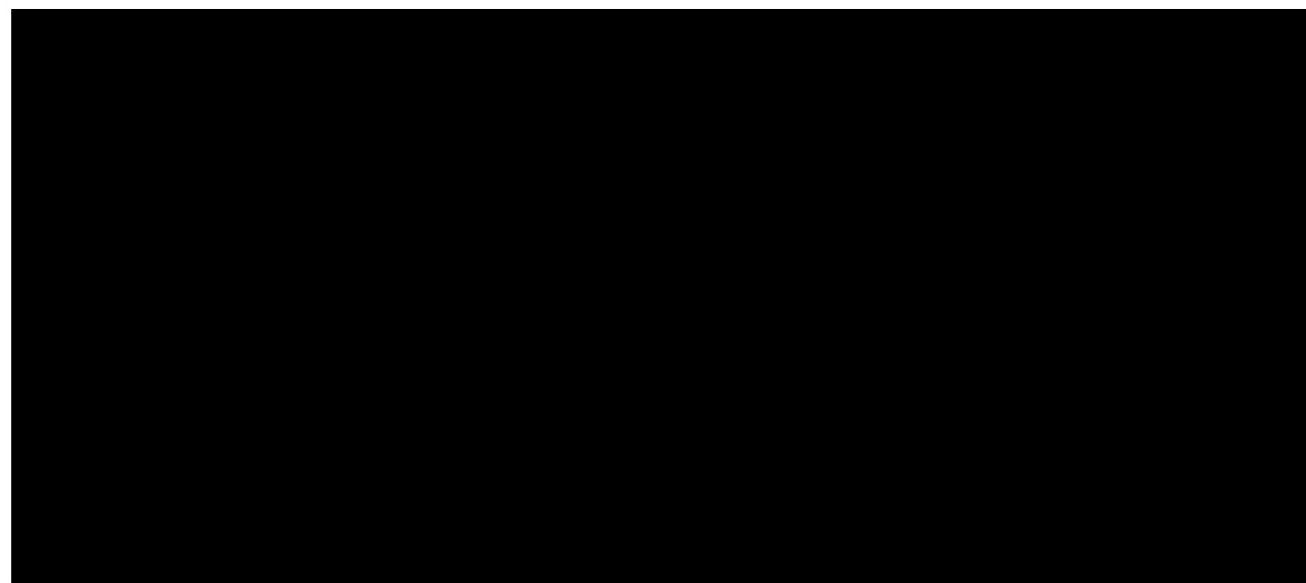
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The specific target of the military ideologists is not known. A. Yanin in the April 1975 edition of Political Self-Education, an official journal of the Central Committee, argued that a world war could lead to the "deaths of hundreds of millions of people" and would turn the "accomplishments of world civilization into ruins and ashes." In the past, commentators voicing similar apocalyptic views on the outcome of nuclear war have been singled out for criticism by the military.

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